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OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Application of	:	
Joar Opheim	:	
Application No. 10/646,898	:	ON PETITION
Filed: August 22, 2003	:	
Attorney Docket No. 012098-0012-999	:	

This is a decision on the petition under the unintentional provisions of 37 CFR 1.137(b), filed January 16, 2009, to revive the above-identified application.

The petition is **GRANTED**.

The application became abandoned for failure to timely file a reply within the meaning of 37 CFR 1.113 to the final Office action of May 19, 2008. The proposed reply required for consideration of a petition to revive must be a Notice of Appeal (and appeal fee required by 37 CFR 41.20(b)(2), an amendment that prima facie places the application in condition for allowance, a Request for Continued Examination and submission (37 CFR 1.114), or the filing of a continuing application under 37 CFR 1.53(b). See MPEP 711.03(c)(II)(A)(2). No extensions of time pursuant to the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a) were timely obtained. Accordingly, the date of abandonment of this application is August 20, 2008.

It is not apparent whether the statement of unintentional delay was signed by a person who would have been in a position of knowing that the entire delay in filing the required reply from the due date for the reply until the filing of a grantable petition pursuant to 37 CFR 1.137(b) was unintentional. Nevertheless, in accordance with 37 CFR 10.18, the statement is accepted as constituting a certification of unintentional delay. However, in the event that petitioner has no knowledge that the delay was unintentional, petitioner must make such an inquiry to ascertain that, in fact, the delay was unintentional. If petitioner discovers that the delay was intentional, petitioner must notify the Office.

The petition satisfies the requirements of 37 CFR 1.137(b) in that petitioner has supplied (1) the reply in the form of a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) and fee of \$405, (2) the petition fee of \$810, and (3) an adequate statement of unintentional delay.

An extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136 must be filed prior to the expiration of the maximum extendable period for reply. See In re Application of S., 8 USPQ2d 1630, 1631 (Comm'r Pats. 1988). Since the \$555 extension of time fee submitted with the petition on January 16, 2009 was subsequent to the maximum extendable period for reply, this fee is unnecessary and will be credited to petitioner's deposit account as authorized.

Telephone inquiries concerning this decision should be directed to Alicia Kelley at (571) 272-6059.

This application is being referred to Technology Center AU 1611 for processing of the RCE and for appropriate action by the Examiner in the normal course of business in accordance with 37 CFR 1.114.

/SDB/

Sherry D. Brinkley
Petitions Examiner
Office of Petitions